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228 The financing of a pearl boat is a complicated affair. Formerly most boats were owned by their captains, but today the majority of the larger boats belong to land merchants. In cases where boats belong to captains but are financed by land merchants, the latter make a profit of about 10%, but in cases where the merchants both own and provision the boats they receive 20% of the profits. After deducting costs, the remainder of the profit is shared in fixed proportions, the nakhuda receiving five parts, the diver two and the Saib one.

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228 When the nakhuda sells the catch he must always be accompanied by two members of the crew, to see fair play. Sales are carried out in an unusual way. If the nakhuda and the purchaser or broker do not want the audience to know the amounts offered for the pearls, and as the sales take place in the quarter of the pearl brokers there are always interested bystanders, they spread a cloth over their hands and bargain by a sort of deaf and dumb language. Once they have agreed on the price the nakhuda must obtain the consent of the two witnesses before the sale is considered valid. The value of the pearls is established in
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228 a special way. In the case of ordinary pearls, they are collected in great numbers, sorted for size by a set of graded sieves, and each group is weighed and counted and their value in "chows," a form of measurement derived from the weight of the pearls, is discovered from a book printed for the purpose. Once a pearl or pearls have been assessed at so many chows, the question of the value per chow is settled by bargaining, the price per chow depending on the average shape, texture and colour in the case of bunches of pearls or in single pearls. In the case of pairs of pearls their value depends greatly on how well they are matched. Seed pearls, the smallest form of pearls, are sold entirely by weight, while a single pearl has been known to sell for as much as £15,000, as in the case of the Bahrain pearl which was eventually bought by a well known American lady.

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433 It is very difficult to estimate the value of the Bahrain catch in past years, the figure for 1833 was estimated at £240,000, £400,000 in 1835 and £303,941 in 1896. In more recent years the Bahrain Government has given official figures which outline the history of the industry during the past quarter of a century. In 1833 it was also said that there were 1,500 boats leaving Bahrain annually for the pearl banks, and in 1896, 900. The largest number of Bahrain pearling boats has been given as 2,000 but this figure is probably an exaggeration. That the industry has declined is proved by the figures, in 1930, 509 boats manned by 19,300 men found pearls worth Rs. 2,125,000, while in 1948 there were only 83 boats with a crew of 2,000 and finding a catch worth Rs. 855,000. Although the numbers of boats and divers decreased by about 6 times and 9 times respectively it is noticeable that the catch only decreased in value by 2½ times and in 1950 the catch was worth Rs. 1,650,000, more than half of the 1930 figure.

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433 The reason for the decline in the industry, which started in 1930, was the severe trade depression which began in that year and which reduced the wealth of those in Europe who were in the habit of buying

1g Belgrave P-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

The following are the first days of the next ten Hijra years : 805

1372—September 21st, 1952
1373—September 10th, 1953.
1374—August 30th, 1954.
1375—August 20th, 1955.
1376—August 8th, 1956.
1377—July 29th, 1957.
1378—July 18th, 1958.
1379—July 7th, 1959.
1380—June 26th, 1960.
1381—June 15th, 1961.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

In addition to the standard weights and measures, the following are in use in Bahrain : 804

Weight.		*Length.*	
39 tolas	= 1 ratl (1 pound)	12 busas (inch)	= 1 qadm (foot)
4 ratls	= 1 rub'a	3 aqdam	= 1 waar (yard)

56 ratls = 1 maund.
14 rub'as = 1 maund.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Date.	*Sunrise.*	*Sunset.*	*Date.*	*Sunrise.*	*Sunset.*
1st Jan.	7.25 a.m.	6.58 p.m.	1st July	5.49 a.m.	7.34 p.m.
1st Feb.	7.44 a.m.	6.20 p.m.	1st Aug.	6.03 a.m.	7.26 p.m.
1st Mar.	7.02 a.m.	6.40 p.m.	1st Sep.	6.18 a.m.	6.57 p.m.
1st April	6.31 a.m.	6.55 p.m.	1st Oct.	6.30 a.m.	6.25 p.m.
1st May	6.02 a.m.	7.09 p.m.	1st Nov.	6.47 a.m.	5.56 p.m.
1st June	5.41 a.m.	7.27 p.m.	1st Dec.	7.08 a.m.	5.45 p.m.

CHURCHES

At the time of writing there are three churches in Bahrain, the Roman Catholic Church on Shaikh Isa Road, Manama, where there is also an English speaking school, and the Dutch Reformed Church of America, at the junction of Shaikh Isa Road and Shaikh Abdulla Road. 795 797

There is also in Bahrain an Anglican Chaplain and an Anglican Church on a plot of ground to the east of the Police Fort donated by the Ruler of Bahrain.

There is a church building in Awali which is used for services by various denominations.

NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS

There are no English language newspapers published in Bahrain with the exception of a fortnightly duplicated magazine published by and for the English speaking employees of BAPCO. There are, however, four Arabic publications. The *Government Gazette*, the official publication of the Bahrain Government in which official notices, laws and reports are found, *Sawt al-Bahrain*, a monthly with articles of literary, cultural and religious interest, articles on Bahrain, poetry and a gossip column, *al-Khamila*, a weekly mainly concerned with the doings of the entertainment world in Egypt and containing light articles, jokes and poems and *al-Qafila*, the newest publication. 204

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

804 The unit of measure employed in Bahrein is the *Dhrā*, equivalent to a cubit, or 19 inches. 4 Dhrā=1 ba', or fathom (6 feet, 4 inches).

The chief weights are:

Habba			1 grain, Brit., U.S.
Mithqual	— 70 Habba		70 grain, Brit., U.S.
Bar	— 10 Mithqual		700 grain, Brit., U.S.
Ruba	— 40 Bar		4 lbs. avoirdupois
Man	— 14 Ruba		56 lbs. "
Rufa	— 10 Man		560 lbs. "

Before the adoption of the new standard the Mithqual had a weight of 72 grains, corresponding in the Persian scale of weights to 24 *Nokhods* of 4 grains each (1 Persian grain = 0.75 Brit., U.S. gr.). Correspondingly, the Ruba was equivalent to 4.114 lbs. However, if the weights have "shrunken" in the operation, the Bahreinis have had the consolation of seeing their Dhrā grow a quarter inch.

In the pearl trade two units of weight are used, one real and the other nominal. By the former they are weighed, and by the latter they are sold. The real weight is the Mithqual, as shown in the table, corresponding to 70 U. S. grains. The nominal weight is the *Chow*, corresponding to 0.212 U.S. grains. The table of equivalents is as follows:

1 Mithqual	— 330 Chow	
1 Chow	— 4 Quarters	— 100 Ducra
1 Quarter	— 25 Ducra	

The general rule for reducing the real to the nominal weight is as follows: Multiply the square of the number of Mithquals by 330 and divide the number of pearls, the quotient being the number of Chows.

If M represents the number of Mithquals, and n the number of pearls, the formula

$$\frac{330M^2}{n}$$

gives the number of Chows.

804 The Chow is also used as the nominal weight in Bombay by the pearl traders, but the Bombay Chow weighs only one-fourth the Bahrein.

CURRENCY

436 Indian money is the national currency. The rupee, a silver coin about the size of a United States half-dollar, is the basic unit and is worth about thirty cents, its sterling equivalent being ls. 6d. The rupee is divided into 16 *annas* (sing., *anna*).

Other silver coins are:

Half rupee	— 8 annas
Quarter rupee	— 4 annas
Eighth rupee	— 2 annas
Pice	— ¼ anna
½ Pice	— ⅛ anna

Copper coins less than one anna in value are also in circulation. There are 12 pies to an anna, or 192 pies to a rupee.

Indian paper currency is also in general use.[1] Besides the rupee the Persian *rial*[2]; (about $0.29), the Saudi Arabian *riyal*,[3] the Maria Theresa Thaler, (about $.45), and the Turkish pound, or *lira*, (about $3.60), are also in limited use.

STAMPS

205 Up to 1947, the stamps of Bahrein were the old stamps of British India, with the word "Bahrain" over-printed across in black ink.[4] However, since the division of Indian colony into Dominions of India and Pakistan, the stamps used in Bahrein are those of United Kingdom with the word "BAHRAIN" and values in rupees over-printed in black ink. The Sheikdom has adhered to the International Postal Union and its membership in that organization is the only international agreement signed by Bahrein.

[648]

1. One hundred thousand rupees is called a *lakh*, and is written Rs. 1,00,000.
2. The Persian rial is fixed by the law of 1932 at a value of 0.07322382 grammes of gold.
3. The Saudi Arabian riyal was declared in 1940 to be equivalent to the Indian rupee.
4. The British and American differ in spelling the name of the island. Throughout the book we have followed the American use.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

Currency

436 Rupees and other Indian coins are the most popular medium of exchange, but the *riyāl* or Maria Theresa dollar is largely current during the pearling season, as the divers, who are chiefly Arabs from the mainland, are used to it and averse from change. The Turkish *līra* passes at about Rs. 14. The ordinary unit for small values is an imaginary coin called the Bahrein *qrān*, worth two-fifths of a rupee. The *tawīlah* of Hasa (see p. 302) is accepted, though not gladly, as the equivalent of ½ anna.

Weights and Measures

•804 A want of uniformity in local weights hampers the retail trade carried on by British Indian subjects, and the introduction of standard weights is much to be desired. The following is a table of local weights :—

Ruba' Mithqāl	=	0·04 lb. English.
Nisf Mithqāl	=	0·08 ,,
Mithqāl	=	0·16 ,,
Nisf Ruba' eth-Thamīn	=	0·32 ,,
Ruba' eth-Thamīn	=	0·64 ,,
Thulth Thamīn	=	0·86 ,,
Nisf Thamīn	=	1·29 ,,
Qiyās	=	1·54 ,,
Thamīn	=	2·57 ,,
Alf	=	3·09 ,,
Ruba'	=	4·11 ,,
Mann	=	57·60 ,,
Rafa'ah	=	576·00 ,,

The following is a table of linear measure :—

6 Sha'arāt Bardhūn (mule hairs)	= 1 Habbat Sha'īr (barley corn).
6 Habbat Sha'īr	= 1 Asba' (finger breadth), plur. Asābi'.
4 Asābi'	= 1 Qabdhah (fist), plur. Qabdhāt.
6 Qabdhāt	= 1 Dhrā' (cubit), plur. Adhru'.
4 Adhru'	= 1 Bā' (fathom).
1,000 Bā'	= 1 Mīl (plur. Amyāl) Hāshimi (mile).
3 Amyāl	= 1 Farsakh (hour's walk).
4 Farsakh	= 1 Barīd (post runner's stage).
3½ Barīd	= 1 Darjah (degree).
360 Darjah	= 1 Dā'irat el-Ardh (circuit of the earth)